

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:ENLAUDERDALE
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EUR/CE:RCBARKLEY
OASD/ISA:COL.LOCKLEAR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, US, GW

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR GERMAN TANK GUN

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPTED FROM JUNE 29 LETTER FROM HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GEORGE MAHON TO SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN RE FY-78 DOD REPROGRAMMING APPRO-
PRIATIONS.

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BEGIN TEXT: THE COMMITTEE DENIES THE REQUEST TO REPROGRAM
DOLS 10,900,000 INTO THE FISCAL YEAR 1978 TANK GUN COOPERA-
TIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, THE FRG 120MM GUN FOR THE XM1
TANK. THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THE ARMY'S PROPOSAL TO SPEND
DOLS 84,100,000 TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE 120MM GUN AND ITS
AMMUNITION TO BE UNJUSTIFIABLE. ADDENDUM 1 TO THE MEMORAN-
DUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNED BY THE U.S. AND THE FRG

ON JULY 28, 1976, CLEARLY PLAC:S UPON THE FRG THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOP AND TEST THE 120MM GUN AND ITS AMMUNITION TO MEET UNIQUE U.S. REQUIREMENTS AS SPECIFIED BY THE U.S. ARMY, AND TO CERTIFY THAT THE GUN AND AMMUNITION IS READY FOR PRODUCTION, NOT READY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BY THE U.S. ARMY. THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE FRG SHOULD HONOR THE REQUIREMENTS S,ECIFIED IN THE MOU.

WITH RESPECT TO THE INTEGRATION OF THE GUN SYSTEM INTO THE

XM1 TURRET, ADDENDUM 1 TO THE MOU SIGNED ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO STATES THE U.S. WILL IMMEDIATELY INITIATE DEVELOPMENT OF A TURRET DESIGN FOR THE XM1 THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH BOTH THE 105MM AND 120MM GUNS AND THAT AT LEAST TWO OF THE XM1 ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT MODELS TO BE PRODUCED UNDER THE XM1 FULL SCALE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT BE FITTED WITH THIS NEW TURRET. IT IS THE CONSIDERED JUDGMENT OF THE COMMITTEE THAT AN EXPENDITURE OF ANOTHER DOLS 87,400,000 FOR THIS INTEGRATION EFFORT IS LIKEWISE UNJUSTIFIED.

IN SUMMARY, THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO MAKE CLEAR THE FACT THAT IT FULLY SUPPORTS THE 120MM TANK GUN COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE INTEGRATION OF THIS GUN INTO THE XM1 TANK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT CANNOT SUPPORT THE EXPENDITURE OF DOLS 171,500,000 TO CONDUCT THE EFFORTS DISCUSSED HERE. IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, THE ARMY IS DIRECTED TO IMME-
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DIATELY INFORM THE FRG THAT THE GUN AND AMMUNITION IN ITS CURRENT CONFIGURATION DO NOT MEET UNIQUE U.S. REQUIREMENTS, SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF PARTS IN THE BREACH OF THE GUN, AS WELL AS THE PENETRATOR AND FUSE IN THE AMMUNITION, AND ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS, AND SPECIFY THAT THE FRG COMPLETE THE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF THE GUN AND ITS AMMUNITION TO MEET UNIQUE U.S. REQUIREMENTS AND SUBSEQUENTLY CERTIFY IT AS READY FOR PRODUCTION. THE ARMY IS LIKEWISE DIRECTED TO REEVALUATE AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE GUN/TURRET INTEGRATION COSTS TO A MORE REALISTIC AND JUSTIFIABLE DOLLAR LEVEL. WHEN THE FOREGOING IS ACCOMPLISHED AND DEMONSTRATED, THE COMMITTEE WILL FULLY SUPPORT ANY ADDITIONAL AND JUSTIFI-
ABLE FUNDING REQUIRED AT THAT TIME. END TEXT.

2. DOD HAS INFORMED FRG EMBASSY. FURTHER GUIDANCE WILL FOLLOW. VANCE

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